



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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2012 Idaho Farm Numbers Down From 2011

The number of farms and ranches in Idaho in 2012 totaled 24,500, down 200 operations from 2011 according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Total land in farms in 2012 for Idaho, at 11.4 million acres, was unchanged from 2011. The average size of farm was 465 acres in 2012, up from 462 acres in 2011.

The number of farms in the United States in 2012 is estimated at 2.2 million, down 11,630 farms from 2011. Total land in farms, at 914 million acres, decreased 3 million acres from 2011. The average farm size is 421 acres, up 1 acre from the previous year.

USDA'S definition of a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year". Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 Census.

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